



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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RANUNCULUS CARDIOPHYLLUS **HEART LEAVED BUTTERCUP**

Heart-leaved Buttercup is a fibrous-rooted perennial with erect, branched stems that are 15-40 cm high. The basal leaves have spade-shaped blades that are 2-6 cm long with toothed margins and petioles that are 2-12 cm long. The few, alternate stem leaves are deeply palmately lobed. Foliage is covered with straight, spreading hairs. Stalked flowers arise from the axils of bracts forming an open, few-flowered inflorescence. Each saucer-shaped flower has 5 yellowish sepals that fall off shortly after opening, 5 yellow petals that are 8-15 mm long, each with a small basal pocket with long hairs at the top, and numerous stamens and ovaries. The cylindric fruiting heads bear 20-100 flattened, egg-shaped, hairy achenes that are 1-2 mm long; each has a short, straight beak on top. Flowering end of May-June, fruiting in July.

The combination of spade-shaped basal leaf blades, long, cylindrical fruit heads up to 12 mm high, and hairy achenes with straight beaks help to identify this species. It resembles *RANUNCULUS PEDATIFIDUS*, which has dissected basal leaves, and *R. VERECUNDUS*, which has smaller petals.